LAW SECRETARIAT

Records the Administration Report of the Department of Labour for the year ended 31st March 1952, with certain directions.

READ—

Administration Report of the Department of Labour for the year ended 31st March 1952 received with correspondence ending with letter No. T.-2/A.R. 1—1952-53, dated 1st October 1952, from the Commissioner of Labour in Mysore, Bangalore.

ORDER NO. L.S. 4089-91—L.W. 243-52-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 28TH OCTOBER 1952.

Recorded.

2. The Administration Report was required to be submitted by the 5th of July 1952. Although the main report was submitted to Government by 11th August 1952, there has been some delay in sending the statements to accompany the report, the last batch of statements having been sent to this office as late as 1st October 1952. The Labour Commissioner is requested to see that in future the report together with the statements is submitted to Government in time.

Tours.—The Commissioner of Labour has toured only 74 days as against 73 days during the year 1950-51 and 91 days during the year 1949-50, and the touring done is inadequate. While there has been some improvement in the touring done by the Assistant Commissioners of Labour, Mysore and Kolar Divisions, there is a marked decrease to the touring done by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour of Bangalore Division, Shimoga Division and Plantation Division, Chikmagalur.

Industrial Labour.—There were 91 Industrial undertakings (excluding Plantation Estates) coming under the purview of the Labour Enactments during the year as against 116 industrial undertakings in the previous year. The total number of operatives employed in these Industrial undertakings is stated to be 81,475 as against 80,883. While there is a decrease in the number of Industrial undertakings, a slight increase in the number of operatives is noticed.

Plantation Labour.—The total strength of the Plantation Labour in about 500 Plantation Estates spread over in about 97,000 acres in Chikmagalur and Hassan Districts is stated to be about 60,000 approximately. It is stated that a number of Estates have not furnished the figures required. The department should get at the correct figures and furnish the same at least in the next year's report.

Security of Service.—Security of Services was ensured to all workers employed in large industrial undertakings coming under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. It is hoped that the departmental officers will acquaint themselves with the provisions of these newly extended Central Acts and strictly enforce them with a view to safeguard the interests of Labour.

In the case of Plantations, no security of service existed, as the workers were played off during certain seasons. It is, however, gratifying to note that some of the Estates had given their workers the benefits of the Provident Fund Scheme.

Labour Conditions.—The general labour conditions in the State during the year was on the whole normal and peaceful. There were only 10 strikes during the year as against 13 in the year 1950-51 and 26 in the year 1949-50. There has been marked decrease in the number of strikes from year to year.

Standing Orders.—It is seen that no fresh Standing Orders were settled during the year. Although the Standing Orders framed under the Labour Act still hold good until superseded by fresh Standing Orders framed under the newly extended Central Act XX of 1946, efforts should be made by the Department to bring the Standing Orders in conformity with the Law now in force.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—In all 120 Industrial disputes were brought to the notice of the Department during the year. Out of them, 68 disputes were disposed of by conciliation and 34 (notices of change) referred to the Tribunal for adjudication, as failure of conciliation was reported in those cases. In Plantation Division as many as 53 disputes out of 69 registered are stated to have been disposed of by conciliation. Whereas conciliation has proved a success in Plantation Division, it has proved an utter failure in Bangalore and Kolar Divisions. It is

hoped that the Conciliation Officers will evince a keen interest in settling more disputes at conciliation, changing the psychology of both the workers and management by impressing upon them the need for amicable settlement and harmony, which is very essential for industrial peace and prosperity. Success at voluntary conciliation is a step towards industrial democracy and should be encouraged. References to Industrial Tribunal for adjudication or arbitration can be made only as a last resort.

Labour Welfare.—The two Recreation Centres started by the Department at Bangalore—one at Cottonpet and the other at Chamarajapet, continued to work satisfactorily. Certain private Industrial concerns also are stated to have provided amenities to their workmen. It is gratifying to note that during the year Labour Welfare has received the due attention of the Department.

General.—During the year under report the Department has undertaken several activities to educate labour and to bring about a re-orientation of their outlook in the matter of Industrial relations and it is hoped that the Department will continue their endeavour in this behalf.

The work of the Department on the whole was satisfactory.

N. R. JAYA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Law Department.

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